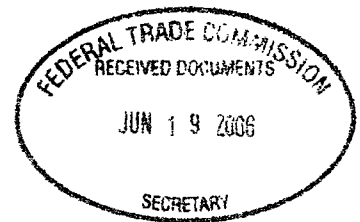


FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION  
RECEIVED

JUN 13 2006

522418-70139



COMMISSIONER LEIBOWITZ

[REDACTED]

Federal Trade Commission/Office of the Secretary, Room H-135 (Annex W)  
Re: Business Opportunity Rule, R511993  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20580  
RE: Business Opportunity Rule, R511993

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am concerned about the proposed Business Opportunity Rule R511993. I am writing because I believe that in its present form, it might prevent me from continuing as a Mannatech Associate. I understand that part of the FTC's responsibilities are to protect the public from "unfair and deceptive acts or practices," but some of the sections in the proposed rule will make it very difficult if not impossible for me to sell Mannatech nutaceutical products.

Having had a severe health issue, and registering as well as immediately becoming a member was very important to me. One of the most confusing and burdensome sections of the proposed rule is the seven day waiting period to enroll new associates. I don't know anywhere where we have to wait even a day to process a purchase or opportunity unless it is mortgaging a house which the law has additional requirements. The initial cost for our sales kit is as little as \$100 to less than \$1,500. Any new or strange change in policy or procedure can cause skepticism which would be unfair. I could buy a car by the end of today with far more risk than a sales kit.

I am sure you are very busy and are trying to do your best to prevent 'unfair and deceptive acts or practices,' but I strongly believe this would create a significant burden or even prevent me from selling in the direct market. When I go to the store I never know if the information that they are giving me is correct. The way a product holds up etc. If I were to return it and said, "the salesman said", I would be considered a fool. Where written information is available for individuals to fall back on, there is substance. Direct selling of Mannatech products is solid with legal documentation and explanations which far exceeds the minimum standards. I feel like my rights are being taken away and others, who are engaged in 'unfair and deceptive acts or practices,' continue their unethical acts. This is not fair, not equitable. The company that I am an associate of, has the best, most fair practices that I know of. They already have a payback policy of 90% for a year!!! That is practically unheard of. I am sure that there are other ways to address those who engage in unfair and

unethical practices without punishing the large number of people who are doing a legitimate business with the highest integrity.

When I was a principal, a girl's heart stopped while she was playing on a piece of playground equipment at lunch. I did not cause it. Infact, I had solid practices in place for emergencies. We had walkie talkies, supervisors, and staff acted immediately and prudently. Unfortunately the EMT's and hospital professionals could not revive her. We had to go through a grueling court experience until the last day of the trial when they withdrew their motion. Who would want to become a principal if they had to 'disclose' that a child died on a playground they were responsible for? There was no negligence, no mistakes, only parents who had sent their child to school full of life, only to receive a call from the school telling them that their child would never be coming home. There are some laws and restrictions for school personnel to protect them from known, convicted child molesters, and that is a prudent decision by lawmakers in my opinion. I also personally know of an educator who took his life because the paper tried him before the trial. Is this the same? You set up doubt and suggest there may be a problem with no proof. Courts are a place where those things are sorted out - not in setting people and companies up for failure before they begin.

I am so distraught over this proposal!!! When I buy a car, I have the option of telling someone that they can use me as a reference. As the owner of a Home Instead Senior Care company, when I do reference calls to make certain that the CAREGivers are the types of individuals we want in seniors' homes, no one has to tell me anything. In fact, our attorneys tell us not to say anything for fear of a law suit. Can you even imagine how difficult will it be for me to provide ten references for nutraceuticals? Where else are we required to have ten references? I don't know, but I do know that if I had to have ten references to hire a CAREGiver I might not be able to hire an adequate number of good staff. The law does not tell me I have to do criminal history checks, but we do, just as Mannatech has processes and procedures that are not required in place to run a company of the highest integrity. I push for six to nine references and it takes days, an sometimes weeks, if people are on vacation, or if they refuse to take callers who they don't know. This could make it difficult at best if this proposal passes.

Would you agree that Head Start is one of the government's greatest and longest success stories? I was a director for nine years and love the program still, today, follow their growth and progress. I also know of the laborious task that the government requires which significantly limits the use of money for direct services to low income families and their children. There is a point when the documentation is excessive and takes away from the ability to provide the best services. I see this proposal as having the same impact on my ability to provide education about necessary nutrition as a Mannatech Associate.

Having retired, I would like to supplement my income so that I can continue to have my family take these nutrients, and I want to have additional money to offset the rising cost of gasoline, petroleum, taxes, and other uncontrollable increases in our budget. I feel as you are unjustly taking away my rights to do a direct marketing business for all the reasons I have listed above.

Just as I want the government to protect me, I don't want my freedom taken unfairly. I believe there are alternative ways to regulate the direct sales without these severe

consequences. I also am not sure that all aspects of this proposal have been analyzed to ensure that it is a fair and effective way to meet the goals.

I appreciate your involvement and ask that you further analyze the impact of this proposal and alternatives that would strengthen rather than destroy a fair employment opportunity for the American people.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my opinion. I most sincerely appreciate your time and pray that you can influence others to reevaluate many of the components of this proposal to make it a strong fair proposal.

Sincerely,

A large, irregular black redaction mark covering the signature area.

S. Katy Esterline